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To:	Section 62A Applications Non Major
Subject:	Application Reference Number S62A/2025/0133: Stoke Lodge Playing Fields
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I refer to the application by Cotham School for planning permission to install 24 additional cameras on eight 6 metre high camera poles at Stoke Lodge Playing Fields.

I live near the Stoke Lodge Playing Fields and regularly (on average twice a week) use at least one of the public rights of way crossing the playing fields. There are a large number of reasons why the School's application is objectionable and should be rejected, but I have three main reasons:

1. The application is wholly disproportionate. The School says it wants to monitor the whole of the 22 acre site for all 24 hours of the day and night and talks about monitoring its pupils one hundred percent of the time, and yet it only buses its pupils to use the playing fields for a limited time each week during term time. For the rest of those days and for the rest of the week and during all weekends and school holidays, the playing fields remain unused. The School does not allow any community use of the playing fields, and since September 2025 it has ceased to allow anyone else to use them. The School already has 6 cameras installed on the site. There is no justification for installing any more.

2. The cameras will be intrusive. Each of the 24 cameras has a 360 degree view, so that they will cover not only the playing fields but also the houses adjoining them. Quite apart from the detrimental effect this will have on the privacy of the adjoining owners, as a regular user of the public rights of way, I shall feel uncomfortable at the thought that my walks are being recorded and stored by the School, with the potential for camera shots to be misused at any time in the future.

3. The poles and cameras will be unsympathetic to the parkland surroundings. Five of the eight will not be positioned at the edge of the site but in more open space, and they will be three times the height of the existing fence. The poles and cameras will be visually intrusive and harm the character and appearance of the parkland. The Council has already refused planning permission for one pole on the grounds that it would have a detrimental impact on a non-designated heritage asset. The same ground applies ever so more strongly to this application for eight poles and 24 cameras.

I strongly urge the Council to reject the School's application.